

WHICKHAM  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,

# Annual Report

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OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health,  
FOR THE  
YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER, 1949.

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SWALWELL,  
A. A. FLETCHER & SON, GENERAL PRINTERS, FOUNDRY LANE,  
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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
COUNCIL OFFICES,  
WHICKHAM,  
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

*December, 1950*

*To the Chairman and Members of  
the Whickham Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In submitting my Annual Report for 1949 for your consideration, a summary of its more important features reveals certain grounds for satisfaction.

The number of still births during the year was half that of the previous year, comparing favourably with the figure for the rest of the Country.

The infantile mortality rate also shows a satisfactory decline, bringing it more into line with that of the rest of the County.

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year, and this disease has become almost a rarity following the intensive immunisation campaign of recent years. That it no longer remains in the forefront of the minds of medical practitioners, is revealed by the marked reduction in the number of throat swabs submitted for examination. It behoves us, however, not to encourage an attitude of complacency among parents in the matter of immunisation.

The number of cases of infectious disease notified during 1949, was half that of the previous year, but it should be noted that the latter included a large proportion of measles notifications.

The incidence of scarlet fever was less than the previous year. With a reduction in the severity of the disease and in the number of beds available in hospitals for its treatment, an increasing proportion of cases may be nursed at home, and it remains to be seen



whether this will result in a higher incidence of the disease in the future.

More cases of tuberculosis were notified than in 1948, but an analysis of the returns shows that this increase was largely attributable to non-respiratory forms of the disease. This type, although mainly affecting the younger age groups, is more easily controlled and the improved standard of milk in the Area (see Section F.) should be reflected by a reduction in these cases.

It would appear that serious consideration must soon be given to the question of increasing the staff of this Department if the standard of work is to remain at a high level. By generally accepted standards, the population in the Area warrants at least two qualified sanitary inspectors, especially as, at present, the Senior Inspector combines his office with that of House Letting Officer. Although this arrangement has many advantages, it leaves little opportunity for other than purely routine work to the neglect of recent important developments in public health spheres e.g. the encouragement of food hygiene.

My thanks, however, are due to him and the two other members of my staff and all who have supplied information necessary to complete this report. Also to all, who, individually or collectively, have worked to encourage a better standard of public health in this district.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN WILSON MORRISON,

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

## SECTION A.

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres: 6,213.

Population—1931 Census: 20,750.

Population—Registrar-General's estimate for mid-1949 : 22,950.

Number of inhabited houses:

Council, 1,579; Other, 4,866; Total, 6,445.

Rateable Value: £97,693.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £370.

### SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE AREA

There has not been any alteration in the boundaries during 1949. The boundaries remain as formerly, i.e., to the North, the River Tyne; to the West, the River Derwent; to the East, the County Borough of Gateshead and the Rural District of Chester-le-Street; to the South, by the Stanley Urban District. The Area is divided into four Wards.

**1—Dunston :** This Ward has the largest proportion of the population of the District and is chiefly industrial. The population finds its employment at Flour Mills, Soap Works, the Electrical Power Station and in Shipping.

**2—Swalwell:** The chief industries are Coal-mining, Engineering, Brick-making and Metal-working. A screening plant used in connection with open-cast coal workings, is situated in the Northerly part of the Ward.

**3 –Whickham:** Is semi-rural in character, residential and partly industrial, including Coal-mining.

**4—Marley Hill:** This Ward is very scattered and essentially rural. Coal-mining is the chief industry.

## UNEMPLOYMENT

The average monthly figure of unemployment shows a decrease of 36 compared with that of 1948. The following information has been supplied by Mr. Fishpool, Manager of the Local Employment Exchange at Dunston:—

YEAR	AVERAGE MONTHLY	YEAR	AVERAGE MONTHLY
	FIGURE OF UNEMPLOYMENT		FIGURE OF UNEMPLOYMENT
1940	300	1945	160
1941	50	1946	200
1942	48	1947	160
1943	70	1948	196
1944	50	1949	160

The number of unemployed in December, 1949, was 171 and of this number 60% were considered to be unfit for normal industrial employment, due to physical defects or their inclusion in the older age groups.

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

### Births.

The total number of births registered was 388 and the natural increase of population (i.e. excess of births over deaths) 108. There were 8 still-births.

The birth rate was 16.90 per 1,000 population as compared with 18.63 for 1948. Comparison tables are given.

### Live Births - Whickham U.D. Area.

	1948			1949		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	213	193	406	191	189	380
Illegitimate	14	8	22	6	2	8
Total	227	201	428	197	191	388
Birth Rate	18.63 per 1,000 population			16.90 per 1,000 population		



### Still Births - Whickham U.D. Area.

	1948			1949		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	12	15	4	2	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—	1	1	2
Total	3	12	15	5	3	8
Still Birth Rate	0.65 per 1,000 population			0.34 per 1,000 population		

### 1949 - Still and Live Births - Whickham, compared with Country generally. Rates per 1,000 population.

	Whickh'm	County Durham	England and Wales	126 Cty. Boro's and Grt. Towns inclu'g London	148 Smaller T's Resident pop'n 25,000 - 50,000
Live Births	16.90	18.70	16.70	18.70	18.00
Still Births	00.34	00.50	00.39	00.47	00.40

### Deaths

The total number of deaths during 1949 was 280 and the death rate 12.20 as compared with 10.97 for 1948.

### Infantile Mortality

There were 14 infantile deaths recorded (9 male and 5 female) giving an infantile mortality rate of 36.00 as compared with 49.00 last year.

### Maternal Mortality

One maternal death was recorded, giving a maternal mortality rate of 2.52 as compared with 0.00 for 1948. The figure for England and Wales for the year 1949 was 0.98 and for Durham County 1.21.

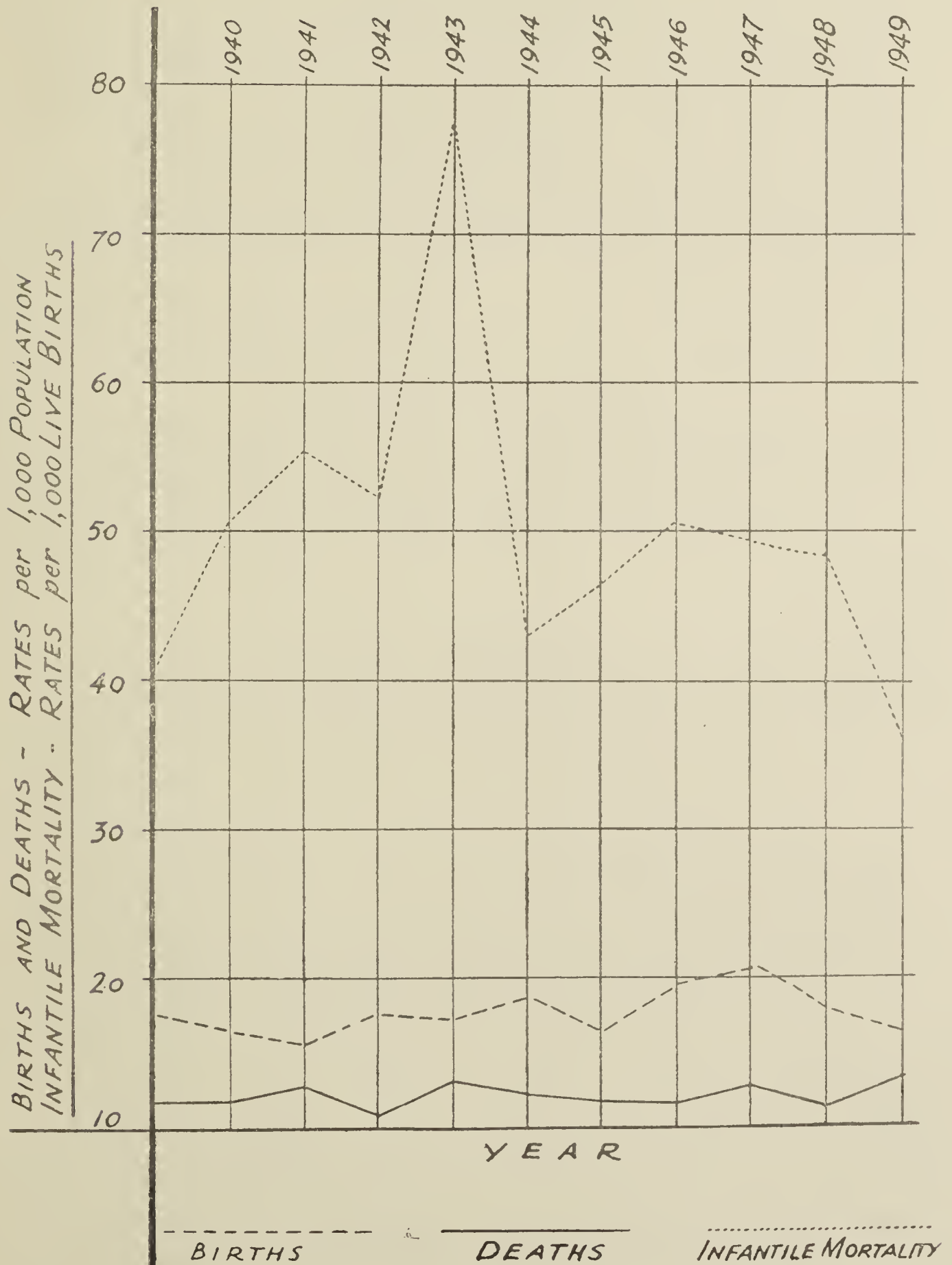
## THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S SHORT LIST OF CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1949

CAUSES OF DEATH					MALE	FEMALE
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	—	—
2	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—
6	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	10	5
7	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	1	1
8	Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	1	—
9	Influenza	...	...	...	1	2
10	Measles	...	...	...	1	—
11	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—
12	Acute Encephalitis	...	...	...	—	—
13	Cancer of Chest cavity, etc.	...	...	...	2	2
14	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	2	3
15	Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	1	4
16	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	11	10
17	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	1
18	Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	10	20
19	Heart Diseases	...	...	...	52	48
20	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	...	...	8	13
21	Bronchitis	...	...	...	8	4
22	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	2	4
23	Other Respiratory diseases	...	...	...	—	3
24	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	—	1
25	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	2	2
26	Appendicitis	...	...	...	—	—
27	Other Digestive diseases	...	...	...	1	—
28	Nephritis	...	...	...	2	5
29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	—	—
30	Other Maternal causes	...	...	...	—	1
31	Premature Birth	...	...	...	—	1
32	Congenital Debility, Malformations, etc.	...	...	...	6	2
33	Suicide	...	...	...	1	2
34	Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	1	—
35	Other Violent causes	...	...	...	2	4
36	All other causes	...	...	...	10	7
					135	145

### 1949 Deaths—Whickham U.D. Compared with Rest of Country

	Whickham	County Durham	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, inc. London	148 Smaller Towns Resident population 25,000 to 50,000
Deaths from all causes per 1,000 population ...	12.20	11.50	11.70	12.50	11.60
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	36.00	44.00	32.00	37.00	30.00

GRAPH SHOWING RISE AND FALL IN BIRTH AND DEATH RATES AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES, 1940 - 1949.



## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

#### Laboratory Facilities.

All specimens for bacteriological examination are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle upon Tyne. This Government service is free of cost to practitioners and the Council.

#### Bacteriological Examinations from Whickham District, 1949.

Year  1949	Blood			Faeces							Urine				
	Serological Examina's Enteric Fever		Cul're	Ent'ic	Dysen tery	Food Poison- ing Salmon ella, T. Murium		Organ isms	Ent'ic	Organ isms		T. B.			
	Positive	Negative	No. of Specimens	Positive	No. of Specimens	Positive	No. of Specimen	No. of Specimens	Positive	No. of specimens	Positive	No. of Specimen	Positive		
	Para- Typh's														
1st Quarter															
2nd Quarter															
3rd Quarter						1									
4th Quarter						1	1		2						
Total						2	1		2						

Year  1949	Swabs (Throat, Nasal, Ear)						Sputum		Miscellaneous		Total			
	Diphtheria (Culture)	Positive No of Specimens	Diphtheria (Virulence)	Positive No of Persons	Haemo- lytic Strepto- cocci	Positive No of Specimens	Organ's Vincent's Angina	Positive No of Specimens	T.B.	T.B. ★	Positive No. of Specimens	Positive No. of Specimens	No. of Specimens	Positive
1st Qtr.					1	1		3	41	3			46	3
2nd Qtr.	3					1		6	20	4	1		31	4
3rd Qtr.	3								15	3			19	3
4th Qtr.	6				1			6	35	5	1		52	6
Total	12				2	2		15	111	15	2		148	16

★ Specimens taken at Whickham Chest Clinic and Sanatoria.



### **Ambulance Facilities**

Ambulance services are provided by the Durham County Council. Included in this service is the transport of cases of infectious disease to Norman's Riding Hospital and other Isolation Hospitals.

### **Nursing in the Home**

The administration of District Nursing also comes within the province of the Durham County Council. The Home Help service is also available and there is a constant demand for assistance in view of the difficulty in obtaining admission of cases of chronic illnesses to hospital at the present time.

### **Treatment Centres and Clinics**

Facilities for the treatment of minor ailments in school children, together with sun-ray, maternity and child welfare, and dental treatment are made available by Durham County Council at various centres within or adjacent to the area.

### **Hospital Accommodation**

(a) Infectious Diseases. The majority of these cases are admitted, as in the past, to Norman's Riding Hospital, which is administered by the Gateshead and District Hospital Management Committee.

(b) Tuberculosis. Provision is made for the hospital treatment of cases in various sanatoria within the County of Durham. There is also a chest clinic situated at Whickham for the supervision of domiciliary cases. Norman's Riding Infectious Disease Hospital has also been opened as a Sanatorium.

(c) General. The Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle, receives the greater proportion of medical and surgical cases and provides a convalescent home at Wylam.

Provision for the treatment of surgical cases is also available at the District War Memorial Cottage Hospital, Whickham.



(d) Midwifery and Gynaecology. Of the midwifery and gynaecological cases sent to hospital, most find their way to the Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle, and to the gynaecological department of the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle, or the Bensham Hospital, Gateshead.

(e) Venereal Disease. Patients may be referred by their doctors to the Venereal Disease Clinic at the General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

## SECTION C.

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The number of cases of infectious disease notified during the year was 202 as compared with 407 in 1948. The details were as follows:

DISEASE	No. OF CASES		REMARKS
	1949	1948	
Scarlet Fever ... ..	29	46	1949—All cases confirmed 1948—42 confirmed
Whooping Cough ... ..	52	27	
Diphtheria ... ..	—	4	1948—One case only confirmed
Measles ... ..	88	307	
Acute Pneumonia ... ..	22	16	
Meningo-coccal Infection	4	1	
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	2	1	1948 and 1949—All cases confirmed
Acute Encephalitis ... ..	—	—	
Dysentery ... ..	1	—	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	1	1	
Smallpox ... ..	—	—	
Para-typhoid fevers ... ..	—	2	
Enteric Fever ... ..	—	—	
Food poisoning ... ..	2	—	
Erysipelas ... ..	1	2	
Chicken Pox ... ..	—	—	
Malaria ... ..	—	—	
Totals ... ..	202	407	

### Incidence of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, and Tuberculosis in the Whickham Area

A graph is given on page 18 showing the rise and fall of these diseases over the past 10 years.

### Immunisation against Diphtheria

The Durham County Council assumed responsibility for Diphtheria Immunisation. Immunisation is done by general medical practitioners and at the County Council clinics. In the

area the number of children immunised during 1949 was as follows:—

**Age**

Under 1 year ...	...	...	...	...	...	34
1—2 years ...	...	...	...	...	...	206
2—3 years ...	...	...	...	...	...	34
3—4 years ...	...	...	...	...	...	9
4—5 years ...	...	...	...	...	...	6
5—6 years ...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Over 6 years (no details are available) ...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Total ...						294

This figure compares with 229 in 1948.

Reinforcing injections were given to 70 children of all ages.

**Notifications of Infectious Diseases during 1949.**

DISEASES	Total Cases notified	AGE GROUPS.										Cases admitted to hospital.
		Under 1 year	1 - 5 years	5 - 15 years	15 - 25 years	25 - 35 years	35 - 45 years	45 - 55 years	55 - 65 years	65 and over	Unknown	
Scarlet Fever ...	29		7	19	3							25
Puerperal Fever ...	1					1						
Erysipelas ...	1							1				1
Measles ...	88		59	26	1						2	
Pneumonia ...	22	1	1	1	2	3	3	3	3	5		1
Acute Poliomyelitis...	2					1		1				1
Whooping Cough ...	52	3	32	17								
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	4		1	1	1						1	3
Dysentery ...	1			1								
Food Poisoning ...	2										2	
Totals	202	4	100	65	7	5	3	5	3	5	5	31

### Notifications of Infectious Diseases during 1949.

Diseases.	MONTHS.												Totals	WARDS				Corrected Figure (Totals)
	Jan'y	Feb'y	March	April	May	June	July	Aug't	Sept.	Oct'er	Nov'r	Dec'r		Dunston	Whick'm	Swalwell	Mar. Hill	
Scarlet Fever ...	2	3	3	2	1	3	2	2	4		4	3	29	15	5	5	4	29
Puerperal Fever ..												1	1		1			1
Erysipelas ...												1	1		1			1
Measles ...		3	6	33	7	15	16	7				1	88	41	18	23	6	88
Pneumonia ...	1	1	11	3		2	2	1			1		22	7	7	1	7	22
Acute Poliomyelitis	1						1						2		1		1	2
Whooping Cough ...	2	4	3	9	12	5	13	4					52	7	19	8	18	52
Cerebro-spin. Fever			1	1						2			4	1			3	4
Dysentery ...											1		1	1				1
Food Poisoning ...								2					2	2				2
Totals	6	11	24	48	20	25	34	16	4	2	6	6	202	74	52	37	39	202

### TUBERCULOSIS

During the year 33 new cases of respiratory tuberculosis and 16 of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified. The detailed figures are tabulated on the following page.

It was not necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, with regard to the employment of tuberculosis persons in dairies etc., nor under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

**Tuberculosis.**

Cases notified during 1949.

	Total	Dunston	Whic'ham	Swalwell	Mar. Hill
Respiratory ... ..	33	19	9	2	3
Non-Respiratory ...	16	10	3	2	1
Total . . . . .	49	29	12	4	4

## New Cases and Mortality during 1949 (including Transfers)

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 yr.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	1	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
5 — 15	2	2	1	6	1	—	2	—
15 — 25	11	8	1	2	2	2	—	—
25 — 35	3	1	1	1	6	8	—	—
35 — 45	1	2	—	—	3	—	1	—
45 — 55	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
55 — 65	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals	19	14	5	11	15	11	4	—

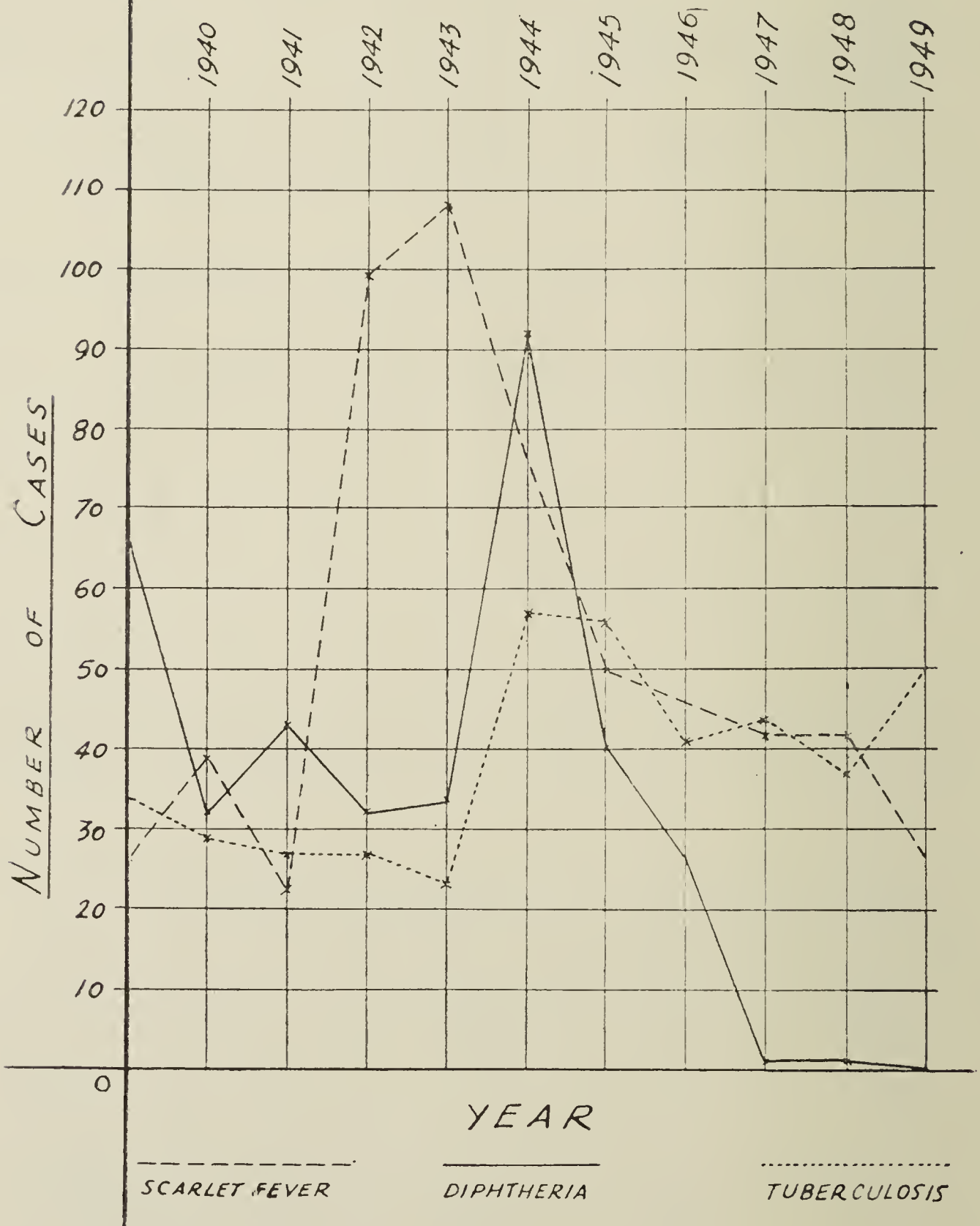
Sex	No. of cases of Tuberculosis on Register at commencement of year.		No. of cases of Tuberculosis on Register at end of year 1949	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Male ...	152	93	156	94
Female ...	118	89	121	100
Totals	270	182	277	194



## Removals from Register.

Reasons.	Totals	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.
Died ... ..	15	8	6	1	—
Diagnosis not confirmed	3	—	1	2	—
Removed from district ...	12	7	4	1	—
Recovered ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	30	15	11	4	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE WHICKHAM  
URBAN DISTRICT AREA



## SECTION D.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### 1—Water Supply

The Dunston, Swalwell and greater part of Whickham wards are supplied by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, and Marley Hill ward by the Durham County Water Board. Both supplies have proved to be of satisfactory quality and quantity. No samples were taken by the Department but both undertakings have furnished details of bacteriological examinations to which their samples have been subjected and the results show the water to be of good, wholesome quality. The following additional details are given :—

Extensions to Water mains	...	...	...	1,750 lin. ft.
Houses supplied by direct main	...	...	...	6445
Houses supplied by standpipe	.	...	...	14
Houses supplied by wells and springs	...	...	...	8
Population supplied by direct main	.	...	...	22880
Population supplied by standpipe	...	...	...	46
Population supplied by wells and springs	...	...	...	24

#### 2—Closet Accommodation

At the end of the year there were in the Area 6,696 water closets and 173 privy ash closets.

#### 3—Public Cleansing and Salvage

The following information relating to Public Cleansing has been supplied by the Council's Surveyor.

Tons of refuse collected	...	...	...	...	8476
Number of separate premises served	...	...	...	...	6548
Kitchen waste salvaged	..	...	...	156 tons	2 cwts.
Other materials salvaged	...	...	95	,,	5

All refuse is disposed of by crude tipping at Dunston, Sunnyside and Byermoor.

#### 4—Sanitary Inspection of Area

##### Number and Nature of Inspections carried out by the Sanitary Inspector during the year

##### Public Health Act, 1936

Sanitation and Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nuisances and offensive trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Watercourses, ditches, ponds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	...	409
Ineffectual visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	77
							1019

##### Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Re Milk Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
							135

##### Food and Drugs Act, 1938

Visits in connection with surrender of unsound food and premises registered under Sec. 14	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Ineffectual Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
							89

##### Factories Act, 1937

Sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
-----------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

##### Shops Act, 1934

Sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
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##### Housing Act, 1936

Unfit Property	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ineffectual visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
							33

##### Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919

Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
--------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

##### Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924

Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
--------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

## Rivers Pollution Prevention Act, 1876

Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
--------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

## Miscellaneous Matters

Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
--------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

## Housing Management

Visits in connection with the operation of the Council's coding scheme, conditions of tenancy, etc. ...	756
Ineffectual visits ... ..	90
	<hr/> 846

Total visits ...	2145
------------------	------

## Summary of work done in the Sanitary Inspector's Department during 1949

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT.		Number of Informal written notices by Inspector	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice	General Remarks
Dwelling-houses and Schools.	Foul Conditions } Structural Defects } Overcrowding ...	— 262 2	— 6 —	— 204 2	
Dairies and Milkshops ...	..	1	—	1	
Bakehouses ...	..	2	—	2	
Ashpits and Privies ...	...	1	—	1	
Waterclosets...	...	43	2	38	
Defective Yard Paving ...	...	41	2	31	
House Drainage	Defective Traps ...	2	—	2	
	No disconnection from sewers	—	—	—	
	Other Faults ...	19	—	14	
Water Supply ...	...	25	—	24	
Animals improperly kept	...	4	—	4	
Smoke Nuisances ...	...	2	—	2	
Dilapidated Dust Bins ...	...	37	—	28	
Choked Drains cleared...	..	15	—	15	
TOTALS		456	10	368	



	Number	Remarks.
<b>WATER, FOOD AND DRUGS</b>		
Samples of Water taken for analysis	—	
“ “ condemned as unfit for use ...	—	★ A quantity of food was surrendered voluntarily
Seizures of Unwholesome Food ...	—★	See under Section F.
<b>PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE</b>		
Lots of Infectious Bedding disinfected or destroyed ...	4	
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	47	
Schools do. do.	—	
Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or articles	—	
Convictions for do. do. do.	—	

### General

A large number of complaints of disrepair and alleged nuisances have been received during the year. During the year 397 informal notices and 5 statutory notices were served—details are given below. Notices have not been complied with as expeditiously as would be desired; this is due to a number of reasons—increasing cost of repairs as against a rental fixed at 1939 values, difficulty in securing suitable contractors and shortages of building materials from time to time. Owing to the large number of notices it was not possible to follow up each one promptly on expiry of the time allowed; such delayed action results in disregard of the time limit given in subsequent notices.

### Nature of Work Done as a result of Notices served

#### Formal and Statutory Action

##### Dwelling Houses

New W.C's erected	...	...	...	...	2
W.C. fitting in scullery removed	...	...	...	...	1

W.C. pans replaced	...	...	...	...	2
W.C. seats provided	...	...	...	...	2
W.C. cone joints repaired	...	...	...	...	5
W.C. cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	19
W.C. structures repaired	...	...	...	...	17
Choked drains unstopped and cleansed	...	...	...	...	17
Broken manhole covers renewed	...	...	...	...	2
Cesspools emptied	...	...	...	...	2
New manholes provided	...	...	...	...	1
Waste pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	25
Sink draining boards renewed	...	...	...	...	11
Sink and water supply transferred into house from temporary structure	...	...	...	...	1
Broken wash-hand basins renewed	...	...	...	...	3
Burst pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	23
New taps provided	...	...	...	...	2
Hot water feed tanks repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Hot water cisterns renewed	...	...	...	...	1
Rainwater spouting repaired and made water- tight	...	...	...	...	62
Wall plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	46
Ceiling plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	22
Wooden floors repaired	...	...	...	...	45
Solid floors repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Skirting boards repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Sub-floor ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	1
Air-bricks renewed	...	...	...	...	3
Windows repaired or recorded	...	...	...	...	21
Stone window-mullions re-set	...	...	...	...	1
House doors and casing repaired	...	...	...	...	23
Kitchen ranges repaired	...	...	...	...	10
Fireplaces repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Fireplace hearths reformed	...	...	...	...	1
Obstructions removed from flues	...	...	...	...	3
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Wash boilers repaired	...	...	...	...	4

Wash-house structures repaired	...	...	3
Food store walls repaired	...	...	1
House roofs repaired	...	...	39
Coal stores repaired	...	...	16
External walls pointed	...	...	6
Bulging main house walls shored up	...	...	1
Soil removed from external wall (to abate dampness)	...	...	1
Yard walls rebuilt	...	...	6
Yard surfaces reformed in concrete	...	...	18
External concrete staircases repaired	...	...	17
Dustbins provided	...	...	26
Offensive accumulation removed	...	...	1
Obstructive trees removed	...	...	1
Nuisance re keeping of poultry abated	...	...	1

### 5—Factories Act, 1937

The following table shows the numbers of factories of various classes which are on the Council's register. Only two inspections were made during the year.

PREMISES	NUMBER OF			
	Premises on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories with Mechanical power ...	68	2	1	—
2. Factories without Mechanical power ...	4	—	—	—
3. Other premises under the Act, including works building and engineering construction, but not including out-workers premises ...	4	—	—	—
4. Outworkers premises ...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	76	2	1	—

### 6—Shops Acts and Orders

During the year seven visits were made to shops in connection with the health and welfare provisions of the Shops Act, 1934.

The Council is a Shops Act Authority and in this connection the shops have generally been observed re half-day closing, closing hours, Sunday trading, etc. : no contraventions were detected. The majority of the shops in the area, following war-time practice, close well before the statutory closing hours. No complaints were received from traders or assistants during the year.

### **7—Moveable Dwellings**

During the year five licences were issued by the Council to individuals to station and use moveable dwellings on sites in the Sunnyside area : one licence was for a period of twelve months and four for six months. A number of enquiries were received regarding the siting of mobile vans in the area but in all cases the sites were considered unsuitable and the persons were advised accordingly. It was also necessary to warn 4 persons for stationing caravans in the area without holding a licence for the purpose : in all cases the vans were duly removed. It is necessary to watch closely the siting of moveable dwellings in the area.

### **8—Offensive Trades**

There are two such trades in the Urban District—one Soap Boiler and one Fat and Tallow Melter; both are situated in the Dunston ward. Both businesses were conducted in a satisfactory manner and no complaints arising from the nature of their trades were received.

### **9—Atmospheric Pollution**

One warning letter concerning the excessive emission of black smoke from a chimney at a Dunston factory was sent during the year. No other offences were observed.

Probably a greater cause of discomfort to the residents in certain areas of the District is the effluvia arising from a coke works situated just outside the westerly boundary and from a coke and a gas works adjacent to the easterly boundary. Following the receipt of a complaint a communication was sent to the Local



Authority in whose area one coke works was sited : having regard to the nature and importance of the trade and that all reasonable precautions are taken to prevent the emission of offensive effluvia there appears to be little prospect of any change in the situation.

### **10—Rodent Control**

During the year 47 premises were treated for rat infestations and 74 for mice infestations. In addition the Council's properties were treated as required. The costs were recovered in respect of all business premises and dwelling houses treated except in the case of the latter where the circumstances did not justify a charge being made; this arrangement is in accordance with the Treasury grant scheme in which the Council participates.

Owing to staff difficulties the sewers were not treated during the first half of the year but a treatment was undertaken in September : the results showed a light infestation.

In December the County Council relinquished their rodent control activities on the refuse tips in the area and this duty was taken over by the Department. As refuse tips often harbour major rat infestations it is to the Council's advantage to be in a position to deal with the tips themselves.

On the whole the area can be said to be remarkably free from rat infestations but control measures should not be relaxed. Mice infestations in dwelling houses are wide-spread and are difficult to eradicate as many house-holders do not report infestations to the Department.

### **11—Insect Pest Control**

During the year infestations of beetles, bugs, flies, woodworm and wasps, etc., have been investigated and treated with D.D.T. insecticides as required, and where applicable the charges have been recovered. The Dunston tip was sprayed to minimise fly breeding and the Millrace of Swalwell was treated to control mosquito breeding. Beetles are by far the commonest household insect pest in the District and one of the most difficult to eliminate.



## SECTION E.

### HOUSING AND HOUSING MANAGEMENT

The Chief Sanitary Inspector has continued to be the Officer responsible for the allocation of Council house tenancies in accordance with the coding scheme. During the year a small sub-committee was formed of members of the Council representative of each ward, to assist the House Letting Officer in making allocations. Housing work takes up a large and constantly increasing proportion of the Chief Sanitary Inspector's time. The combination of housing allocation duties and sanitary inspection is appropriate as the Officer concerned is, probably, more conversant with housing conditions and the living circumstances of many of the inhabitants of the area, than any other Officer and providing the Health Department is adequately staffed there is no reason for altering this arrangement.

Number of houses built in the Area during 1949 :—

Houses built by private enterprise ... ..	8
Permanent houses built by Whickham U.D.C.	50
(Marley Hill, 24; Swalwell, 26.)	

Total ...	58
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Comparative figures : 1936 to 1949 :—

Houses Built	1936	1937	1938	1939	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	Total
Whickham U.D.C.	288	110	—	37	—	—	73	80	50	638
Private Enterprise	115	219	122	43	1	12	26	8	8	554
Total	403	329	122	80	1	12	99	88	58	1192

## Details of Allocations made in 1949 :—

Ward.	Bungalows	2 bedrooms self-contained	2 bedrooms Do'nstairs Flats	3 bedrooms self-contained	3 bedrooms Upstairs Flats	4 bedrooms self-contained	Ex-Army Huts	Total
Dunston ...	6	9	5	3	5	7		35
Whickham ...	2	7	—	4	—	—	13	26
Swalwell ...	1	6	—	46	—	3	—	56
Marley Hill ...	1	17	—	11	—	5	—	34
Total ...	10	39	5	64	5	15	13	151

The previous tables show that 50 new houses became available for letting and that 151 allocations were made, in 1948 these figures were 80 and 140 respectively. Thus despite there being 30 fewer new houses the allocations increased. These allocations include hutments at the camp and houses becoming vacated but the figure is mainly made up by transfers of existing tenants to more suitable accommodation. In this way, in the Council houses, overcrowding has been relieved and under-occupation reduced and the Council's policy of making the best use of existing accommodation has been fulfilled. This policy reduces the demand for new accommodation. Transfers often entail much preliminary work and call for tact and understanding on the part of the Officer concerned and last, but not least, the co-operation of the tenants and this, with few exceptions, has been forthcoming.

Thirty-eight families occupy huts at Fellside Camp. The policy of closing the Nissen huts, which are in a dilapidated condition, has been continued and at the year end only three families were occupying this type of hut.

During the year no slum clearance or large scale re-conditioning work was undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the Housing Act, 1936, and no special action was taken in regard to

abatement of overcrowding except by way of normal housing allocations. There is no information available to show the number of overcrowded dwelling-houses in the District. The housing shortage precludes a resumption of general activities under the Housing Acts.

As a result of housing allocations 42 cases of overcrowding were relieved in privately owned houses and 30 in Council houses giving a total of 72. A number of families were allotted more satisfactory housing accommodation on account of pulmonary tuberculosis.

There were no inspections under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. Disrepair in dwelling houses discovered as a result of complaints or routine investigations has been dealt with under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, but there are a number of properties which will, at a future date, have to be considered for Housing Act procedure.

## SECTION F.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### Milk Supply

The number of registered dairies and retail distributors of milk in the Urban District at the year end was 11.

New legislation came into operation on 1st October, 1949, as a result of which the registration and control of all aspects of milk production was transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Prior to this date there were 15 registered dairy farms and cowkeepers' premises.

During the year two milk distributors were persuaded to discontinue the sale of loose milk from churns in favour of milk bottled at the dairy. With the exception of one dealer who sells loose milk from a shop all milk sold by retail in the area is bottled.

The Durham County Council issued two licences in respect of farms at which Accredited milk was produced and bottled and two for farms at which Accredited milk was produced but not bottled. This function of the County Council was also transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries on 1st October, 1949.

One feature of the milk supplies in the Urban District is the increasing quantity of designated milk which is being consumed, this particularly applies to " Pasteurised " and " Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) " grades of milk. Under the new legislation the Council retain the right to issue licences to dealers for the sale of designated milk and on 1st October, 1949, Sterilised milk was brought within the scope of the Milk Special Designation Regulations. During the year the following annual licences for designated milks were issued :—

Tuberculin Tested Milk Dealers Licences	...	...	7	(2)
Tuberculin Tested Milk Dealers Supplementary Licences	1			(0)
Pasteurised Milk Dealers Licences	...	...	8	(1)
Pasteurised Milk Dealers Supplementary Licences	...	2		(2)
Sterilised Milk Dealers Licences	...	...	37	(0)



The figures in brackets show the number of licences issued in 1948.

During the year 70 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination as the following table shows : prior to 1st October, 1949, a proportion of samples were taken at farms, since that date all samples were taken at dairymen's premises or from delivery vehicles. It will be seen that two samples of ungraded milk were found to contain tubercle bacilli after application of the animal inoculation test. The milk in both cases was produced and retailed within the Urban District; it was diverted to pasteurising establishments until certified free from infection. In both cases, after sampling, dairy cows were sent in to the Newcastle Abattoir and were found to be affected with generalised tuberculosis. These instances illustrate the practical value of regular sampling particularly of ungraded milk of which the producer's herds receive little veterinary supervision. Excluding the two aforementioned samples the results show that the milks examined were generally very satisfactory.

#### MILK SAMPLING, 1949. Results of Bacteriological Examination.

Type of Milk	No. of Samples Taken	Tests to which submitted—							
		Methylene Blue Test		B. Coli, Test		Phosphatase Test		Animal Inoculation for Tubercle bacilli	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
Ungraded ...	31	22	6	28	—	—	—	11	2
Accredited ...	7	6	1	5	2	—	—	1	—
Tuberculin-test'd	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.T.(Pasteurised)	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised ..	22	22	—	—	—	20	2	—	—
Other heat-tr'td	10	9	1	—	—	10	—	1	—
Sterilised ...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	70	59	8	33	2	30	2	13	2



### Food Sampling

The Durham County Council are the Food and Drugs Authority for the District and enforce the sampling provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. The Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department has very kindly furnished the following information.

Total number of samples obtained during 1949 ... 81

The following articles were purchased for analysis :—

1 Farinoca	1 Ground Cinnamon
1 Bacon	1 Cloves
1 Tea	1 Ground Nutmegs
1 Sugar	1 Spaghetti in Tomato Sauce
1 Barley	(Informal.)
1 Cocoa with Wheat Glutens	1 Butter
1 Pure Malt Vinegar	1 Fish Cakes
2 Self Raising Flour	1 Bi-carbonate of Soda
1 Caraway Seeds	1 Beef Suet
1 Gravy Salt	1 Pastry Mixture
1 Cheese	1 Oatmeal
1 Compound Liquorice	1 Camphorated Oil
Powder	1 Olive Oil
1 Bun and Cake Mixture	1 Custard Powder
1 Liquid Paraffin	1 Mixed Spice
1 Parrish's Chemical Food	1 Currants
1 Glauber's Salts	1 Date Pudding (Informal.)
1 Gelatine	10 Sterilised Milk
1 Ice Cream	36 Milk

Two of the samples of milk were unsatisfactory and were dealt with as follows :—

(a) Sample slightly below standard in non-fatty solids but otherwise genuine—no action was taken.

(b) Sample was deficient in fat to the extent of 20.8%. Two “ appeal to the cow ” samples were taken and both showed a similar

deficiency. The matter was referred to the National Agricultural Advisory Committee for advice to be given to the farmers concerned.

### **Inspection of Meat and Other Foods**

The slaughter of animals for human consumption is still centralised and the Urban District is supplied with meat from the Newcastle abattoirs.

One slaughterhouse at Sunnyside is maintained for casual use for the slaughter of pigs by self-suppliers of bacon. The local office of the Ministry of Food authorised the slaughter of 138 pigs in the Urban area during 1949. It is significant that not one request was received to examine a pig after slaughter although it is most unlikely that every carcase and organs were free from disease.

The following foodstuffs were surrendered by traders after being found to be unfit for human consumption and were either destroyed or utilised for animal feeding purposes. Butchers meat found to be unfit is returned to the Wholesale Meat Supply Association. Bacon and butter are returned by the normal trade channels to the suppliers in accordance with the Ministry of Food Salvage Department instructions.

### **Tinned Goods**

Peas ... ..	15	Grapefruit ... ..	1
Beans ... ..	5	Apple Sauce ... ..	1
Baked Beans ... ..	1	Marmalade ... ..	2
Carrots ... ..	9	Evaporated Milk ... ..	28
Tomatoes ... ..	2	Condensed Milk ... ..	4
Tomato Puree ... ..	2	Salmon ... ..	1
Tomato Soup ... ..	2	Sild ... ..	1
Tomato Juice ... ..	1	Crawfish ... ..	8
Carrot Soup ... ..	8	Cod Roe ... ..	9
Pineapple ... ..	4	Mussels ... ..	5
Plums ... ..	8	Meat Lunch ... ..	1
Peaches ... ..	2	Oxtail ... ..	1
Pears ... ..	1	Meat in Gravy ... ..	1

**Other Foodstuffs**

Beef ... ..	238 lbs.	Chocolate ...	14 ozs.
Lamb ... ..	266 lbs.	Jam ... ..	2 jars
Sausages ...	100 lbs.	Pickles ...	11 jars
Beef Cubes ...	120	Pudding Mix ...	145 pkts.
Meat Paste ...	2 jars	Chocolate Spread	20 pkts.
French Brawn ...	2 lbs. 5 ozs.	Dessert Mould ...	16 pkts.
Butter ... ..	243 lbs.	Plums ... ..	4 jars
Flour ... ..	33 lbs.	Dried Figs ...	65 lbs.

**Ice Cream Premises**

The number of premises registered at the end of the year was :—

For the manufacture and sale of ice cream ...	2
For the sale only of ice cream ... ..	22

During the year one registration for the manufacture of ice cream was cancelled, without appeal by the occupier, the premises not being considered suitable; the premises were re-registered for the sale only of ice-cream. The registration of two premises for the sale only of ice cream was cancelled as in both cases they were no longer used for the purpose following changes in the nature of the businesses.

At twenty-one of the premises registered for the sale of ice cream the commodity is pre-packed in cartons or wrappers and in these cases there is little risk of contamination at the seller's premises.

A large number of dealers come into the area with motor and horse-drawn vehicles for the sale of ice cream.

No samples were taken during the year.

**Restaurants and Catering Establishments**

There are in the Urban District 90 caterers licensed by the

Ministry of Food : many of these licences are held by social and sports clubs and other voluntary organisations who were brought within the catering establishments scheme during 1949. The remaining licences apply chiefly to industrial catering premises. There are very few public cafes in the District. There are two large school kitchens in the area which are controlled by the Durham County Council and at which the school meals for the various schools in the Area are prepared : both the school kitchens are very satisfactory.

Owing to pressure of other work it has not been possible to pay many visits to these premises.

### **Butchers Premises**

There are nineteen butchers shops in the area and although it has not been possible to pay frequent visits to the shops and meat making-up premises the inspections which have been made show that the premises, etc., are of a satisfactory standard.

A large amount of meat purveyed in the area is sold to the consumer from mobile vans, particularly in the Swalwell, Whickham and Marley Hill wards.

### **Bakehouses**

There are five bakehouses in the area and those visited were found to be maintained in a satisfactory condition.

### **Other Food Premises**

These include fried fish shops, grocers, flour and sugar confectioner's shops. Again it has not been possible to devote much attention to these premises. A sufficient supply of hot water has been provided in a number of food shops after representation by the Sanitary Inspector.



## **PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY**

### **Acting Medical Officer of Health**

JOHN WILSON MORRISON, M.B., B.S.

### **Chief Sanitary Inspector**

A. P. ROBINSON, Cert. R.S.I. and S.I. Examination Joint Board, M.S.I.A. (Certificate of R.S.I. for Inspectors of Meat and other Foods.) Resigned 12th February, 1949.

G. RAWLINSON, Cert. R.S.I. and S.I. Examination Joint Board, Cert. of R.S.I. Inspector of Meat and other Foods, M.S.I.A. Commenced duties 1st April, 1949.

### **Sanitary Inspector**

Vacant since 31st January, 1947.

### **Clerk and Pupil Sanitary Inspector**

H. F. L. DAVIES, appointed Clerk, 19th October, 1949.





